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Carthage, NC

Tactical Journal

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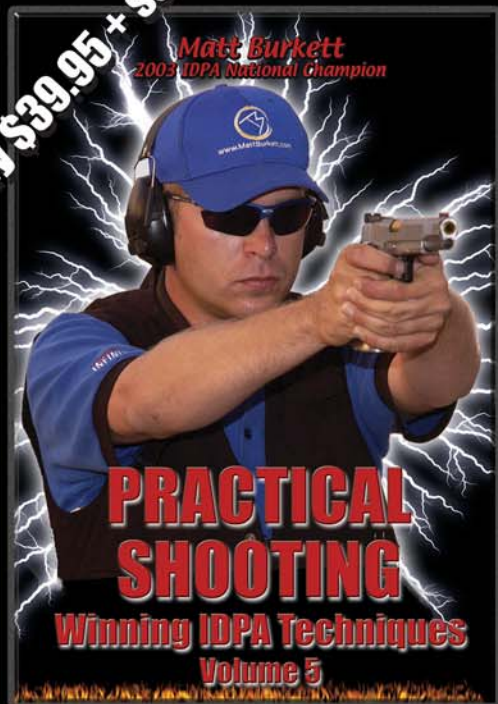
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Table of Contents

Cover Story

Trigger Time
Carthage, NC

By Tom McKean

Page 16

Ken's Corner

Ken Hackathorn

6

1st Annual IN Regional IDPA Match 2003

Jake Martens

9

IDPA for \$600 (or Less) !!

Chuck DiSalvo

20

Comraderie...

Ken Williamson

21

New Shooter's Thoughts

John Igoe

22

The NC State Match

Charlene Rogers

24

IDPA Match Tips from the Palmetto Gun Club

Sam Caldwell and Zollie Byrd

26

IDPA Pro Shop Order Form

27

Complete Glock Reference Guide Testimonial

Calvin Cox

31

To The Editor:

Mark Williams

32

Upcoming Major Matches

34

Advertisers Index

38

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KEN'S CORNER

BY KEN
HACKATHORN

Getting a penalty at any IDPA competition is always a sore point. Many times, it is a result of a brain fade or a bad choice. Most of us accept the procedural penalty as the cost of not being switched on or just plain making a mistake.

Mistakes are a fact of life...we all make them. At an IDPA match, a mistake will cost you three seconds. On the street in a real world self defense problem, a mistake can cost you much more than three seconds. I see most procedurals in; failure to use cover, shooting targets out of order, and lots of people just plain failing to follow instructions. It should be noted that many IDPA contestants suffer various levels of stress once their name is called to step to the line. Once this happens, they often fail to listen to the Safety Officer's instructions, which results in mistakes. So maybe it would be wise to watch a few shooters go through the stage before it is your turn.

Please note that in IDPA, there are NO sight pictures allowed. If you take one, you will get a three second procedural. Checking your shooting position by 'air gunning' is considered taking a sight picture by IDPA. I have had people tell me that since they don't actually have a gun in their hands that they are not violating the rule....whether a real gun or imaginary gun, you get a three second procedural. You can 'air gun' if you want, but be prepared for 3 seconds added to your score.

Stages that require shooting on the move often result in procedurals because most people just don't practice or train to shoot while moving. When attending an IDPA match, they perform just like they do at home when at range practice....stand on the firing line and pound bullets down range. In the real world, nobody stands still in a gunfight, so not learning to shoot on the move should be considered a flaw in your tactical handgun skills. If you do badly at your mobile shooting skills, or fail to move when you



should...consider the procedural penalty you get for not moving when you should be as a wake-up call for your training/practice.

We all know the pain of a five second penalty for a non-threat hit or failure to neutralize. One can argue that these are nearly always 'operator errors' and you suck up the five second penalty for shooting poorly. It is argued by many IDPA members that five seconds for a non-threat is far too generous and should be ten seconds or more to reflect the reality of shooting the wrong person.

When we sat down and went through the process of forming IDPA, one topic was of concern; that was the practice of contestants violating the spirit and intent of the course of fire to gain a competitive advantage. We all had seen the effects from our previous experience in other action shooting sports. At times, many contestants had adopted the attitude that if the rule book does not say you can't do it, it was legal to go around the intent or goal of the course of fire to gain an advantage. Some folks even adopted the approach that cheating to win was okay as long as you win the argument that you didn't understand the rules or it was not forbidden by the rule book. Sadly, most of the people applying this logic were superb shooters who could win without using tactics to circumvent the rules.

Decades ago, Frank Glover's crew down in North Carolina had come up with the 'Failure to do Right' rule for their Three-Gun Tactical Matches. This FTDR was worth 20 seconds in penalties...which pretty well knocked you out of the competition on the stage you were shooting if you tried to "beat the system". We adopted the 'FTDR' Rule in IDPA as a means of keeping everyone in line. It seems to be rarely ever used. This may be because the threat of twenty seconds added to your score is enough to keep most contestants honest...or there may also be a reluctance to use it because it can be so severe as to knock any major competitor out of the race. My view is that it needs to be used more often. I see too many people, who know better, try to circumvent the Rules, equipment requirements, and argue a procedural penalty that deserve a FTDR. IDPA defines a 'FTDR' as: "Any attempt to circumvent or compromise the spirit or rationale of any stage either by use of inappropriate devices, equipment, or techniques".

We are currently seeing positive growth of IDPA members, and this is a good thing. With this growth comes many shooters who are crossing over from other action shooting sports to give IDPA a run. They are most welcome, but many are bringing the attitudes and habits from other disciplines to IDPA that are not compatible with the rationale and spirit of IDPA. These folks should beware; the FTDR is there for a reason and should be used anytime it is necessary. In IPSC/USPSA, events you are presented a course of fire, and the contestant can solve the shooting problem anyway they choose. In IDPA events, you should shoot the stage just the way the SO tells you how to shoot it. Follow this advice and you will rarely have problems. In IPSC, you can deal with the problem without regard to practical application...no concern over cover, target engagement order, and you can reload anywhere you see fit. Carry as many magazines as you wish and litter the ground with as many as you want. IDPA was founded to address the loss of practically in IPSC/USPSA. IPSC is a challenging and

enjoyable shooting sport. Many people take great pleasure in its competition. Just remember we, have a different approach in IDPA, not that we are better or worse...just different.

If you have a background in IPSC and bring your competition habits to IDPA and get penalties, don't be surprised. In much of IPSC/USPSA, the concept of arguing with the RO with the hope of winning or gaming your way out of a penalty may result in an FTDR in IDPA...just a warning folks.

And finally, there is the ultimate penalty... disqualification...OUCH! This can really hurt. It usually happens over a gross safety violation. But keep in mind it also includes "Gross Unsportsmanlike Conduct" and the use of illegal equipment. Far too many IDPA contestants reply to the issue of illegal equipment with; "I don't have any issues with my gear at my home club". If you plan on shooting any IDPA sanctioned event, you need to be aware of the equipment rules and abide by them. Ignorance will not help you on this one. Unfortunately, most of the people that get caught on this issue know better. Don't take a chance on this one. IDPA is quite liberal on its equipment rules, so why push the limit when it can get you a DQ?

Taking a little spare time to read the IDPA rule book from time to time can be a real lifesaver in IDPA competition. And finally, remember, a year after your big match, no one will remember who won first or second place... but people will always remember if you acted like a good guy or behaved like an !##*^\$@.



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1ST ANNUAL INDIANA REGIONAL IDPA MATCH 2003

BY JAKE MARTENS, A10094

The 1st Annual Indiana Regional IDPA Match was held on Saturday, September 13th, 2003, at Wildcat Valley Rifle and Pistol Club, just north of Lafayette, IN. There were 9 stages for the 64 shooters to go through requiring no less than 133 rounds to complete. The stages were as fun as they were challenging, and really made the shooters work through moving, reloads, and using cover. Almost all targets were covered in some type of t-shirt to add to the fun.

Many of the stages had more than 1 shooting position that required a lot of moving while engaging targets. Take for example stage 1, "Abduction", where you are an employee of the US embassy in a hostile country. You are carrying your child through the parking lot towards your car when an abduction attempt occurs, now you are in a fight for you and your child's lives. You started at P1 holding a baby doll in your weak arm, cradled. On the start signal you were required to draw your firearm with strong hand only and engage T1-T3 in Tactical Priority while moving to cover behind the prop vehicle where you must lay the baby down behind cover. Throwing the baby doll would result in a procedural. Behind P2 while slicing the pie you were required to engage T4, Steel 1, & T5, which was at 18 yards out. Then move to the back of the prop vehicle at P3 and engage T6, T7, & T8 while slicing the pie and not shooting the No-shoot. All targets required two shots each and 1 on steel. Reload as needed, and it was needed!!

The guys at WVRPC also came up with a really nice shoot house that came with a built in "Low Light Effect". On this stage, number 7, you began as if on your front porch and hear screams inside where bad guys have taken your wife and child hostage. On the start signal from P1, you drew your firearm and opened a door facing a target to the left which you engaged with two rounds and then, using the door frame as cover, engaged the target to your right. You then moved to P2 and, slicing the pie, you engaged T3 and T4. After that you moved to P3 at a window, slicing the pie you engaged T5, T6, & T7.

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In front of T6 were two No-shoots and T7 was hiding behind hard cover, almost requiring just headshots. All this while firing from a darkened shoot house with the only light coming in from the window.

The other 7 stages were just as fast, exciting and challenging as these. Some required more shooting while moving, or a start position while lying down. There was one that the BG's had on body armor so you had to do failure drills on these three with two to the body and one to the head while slicing the pie out to eight yards. And of course there were swingers on some stages. On stage 3, "The ATM Heist", there were two of these that swung back and forth between No-shoots!

The weather was great, the shooting was fun, and the staff was great. My hat's off to these guys and gals that donated their time to help set up and run a very nice match. They did a very nice job of keeping everything moving right along. This was the first big IDPA match that these guys have put on and they did a great job.

Before the awards were handed out there was a random chance drawing for the generous donations given to the match. I would like to thank the following companies and people who gave items: STI, Ahrends, Corbon, Blackwater Training, Smith & Wesson, Kahr, Upland USA, Kleen Bore, Slip2000, Magnum Research, Kershaw, Bagmaster's, Sierra, Springfield Armory, Federal, Beretta, Lyman, Star Bullets, High Standard, Rudy Project, Bushmaster, CZ, Richard Heinie, Rob Simonich, Hogue, Colt, Surefire, Millett Sights, Magtech, CenDex, Gould & Goodrich, 5.11 Tactical, Magnus Bullets, Gunsite, Hornady, XS Sights, Para Ordnance,

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It was a very nice gesture and showing of support by these manufacturers and companies to help stand behind the shooters and shooting sports. A special thanks to Monty Hopkins of Sign Solution for the banner and directional signs to the range. Please remember those companies' names when making your next purchase so that they can continue to support our sport.

Certificates were presented to High Senior, High Female and High Law Enforcement as well as the top scorers in their class and division. CDP top shooters were Rich Demondo, John Blackwell and Mike Parks in Expert. Brent Roberts, Bill Dezarn and Jake Martens in Sharpshooter. Tom Worthy, Jonathan Dean and Chuck Caldwell in Marksman. In ESP, Bill Barkstrom and Bob Patton in Sharpshooter took honors and in Marksman ESP it was John Serafin and Dave Snyder. SSP Master went to Scott Hurt and Expert was Vern Harlow. In SSP Sharpshooter, (the largest group with 13 shooters) honors went to Jeffrey Skocilich, Ben Molina, and Andrew Wallace. Kevin Stroud, Don Williams and Tony Gascho took 1st, 2nd and 3rd in SSP Marksman. The wheelgunners were out also, Mike Hanlon in Expert, Steven Lowe and Nick Paulas in Sharpshooter and John Miklos in Marksman. There were a total of 64 shooters with 22 in CDP, 9 in ESP, 26 in SSP and 7 in SSR.

Next year WVRPC (www.wvrpc.org) will be holding the 2nd Annual Indiana State Match. The Indiana Regional Match will move to RedBrush (www.redbrush.org) in June 2004, which held the state match this year. We are looking forward to seeing everyone at each of these next year!!

NOTICE

The editorial staff of the Tactical Journal is always interested in articles from the membership pertaining to IDPA, guns or other relevant topics. **Pictures with articles are encouraged and welcomed.**

Submission or editorial information should be sent to:

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Eric GRAUFFEL
World IPSC Champion

Trigger Time

Carthage, NC

By: Tom McKean, A13763

Trigger Time IDPA match 10 May 2003

Trigger Time ...North Carolina's newest IDPA range, had it's first sanctioned match on 10 May 2003. It was Mother's Day weekend, 92 degrees and humid, but "a few good men" came to shoot. Now we need "a few good women".

There were four stages with a minimum round count of fifty-six. There was a "house clearing" stage with two strings, a standards stage with three strings, another standard stage with two strings and a car scenario stage.

Stage one was a Limited Vickers stage with three strings, six shoots each for a total or eighteen. (See photo below)





String one: The shooter was holstered at the ten yard line facing three "shoot targets" set-up like they are for the IDPA Classification Match. At the signal, the shooter drew and engaged the targets in tactical sequence, freestyle, with a total of six shots. One target was obscured by a "no shoot" but the shooter was allowed to move.

String two: The shooter was holstered at the seven yard line, facing the targets. At the signal, he drew and fired strong hand only, in tactical sequence with a total of six shots. A different target was obscured.

String three: The shooter started holding his gun in the weak-hand, pointed down at a forty-five degree angle at the five yard line. At the signal he engaged the targets in tactical sequence with a total of six shots. No target was obscured. At the end, each target should have had six hits, but here's the thing, somewhere in all that shooting, at the shooter's discretion, each target had to have at least two head shots.

This stage was fun to watch because one of the guys was an IPSC shooter and, you guessed it, he double-tapped the very first target, hesitated, said something like, "oh my goodness", and continued on. Dean Brevit smoked that stage, and Tom Bullins (the range owner) shot it second best.

Stage two was a Vickers Count "house clearing" stage with two strings of eight shots each, for a total of sixteen. (See photo above). There were four "shoots" and one "no shoot" This stage had a mover that was "powered" by the shooter by means of two cables that were attached to his rear belt loop. When he moved from cover, he moved the mover target at the same speed that he was moving, naturally it "ran" behind a "no shoot" half way across. The techniques tested here were shooting



around the left and right sides of vertical cover, and shooting while moving laterally at a target that was moving laterally in the opposite direction at about seven yards. We ran this twice; once from left-to-right, and once from right-to-left. This stage cost about \$1.98 to set-up. All you need is a two inch piece of PVC pipe, four small pulleys, 100mph tape and some 550 cord. The Seals showed Tom that system. We'll see a variation of that again. Dean won that stage too and Tom came in second again.

Stage three was a Vickers Count two-car stage with five "shoots" and one "no shoot". The scenario was set up as if a motorist was on the side of the road with a dead battery and a car load of BGs were doing a drive-by. (See photos above and on page 19) The shooter started holstered and centered on the front of the car with a set of jumper cables in the strong hand. At the signal (as our area coordinator, Frank Glover, loves to say) "HANDLE IT!"

Vertical and low cover was required here, as well as shooting while retreating. This was a tricky stage because there were two very different ways to handle it. The "normal" way had a lot of movement but unobstructed, close shots. The "risky" way had less movement but some obstructed, farther away, head shots. Dean chose the risky way and won the stage with an 8.53 (1 down). Tom chose the route that had a lot of movement and came in second with a 9.49 (1 down).

Stage four came from the twisted mind of Frank Glover, and he's going to have something like it next month at The Carolina Cup so I added it here. This was a Limited Vickers standards type stage with two strings; once from left-to-right, and once from right-to-left with six shots each time for a total of twelve. All shots must be fired while moving. Let me see if I can describe this thing.



Picture two targets down range, on line, eighteen yards apart with a third target splitting the distance equally. The two start points are ten yards directly in front of each end target. And, by the way, the end targets were facing slightly inboard at about a 45 degree angle which made the one directly in front of you look half the normal width. You start on the left side at the signal, draw and while moving to the right (toward the opposite start point) engage each target with two rounds only. When finished shooting, stop, your time is recorded, reload, re-holster, move to the opposite start point and do it again in the opposite direction. While we were G2'ing this thing, we figured out how to shoot it. You could either shoot fast and take the downs, or shoot slow with fewer downs. Duh, aren't you supposed to do that all the time? Look at the two fastest guys and see who went for speed, and who went for accuracy. Tom won it with a 14.76 (8 down), and Dean came in second with a 15.13 (4 down). Like Tom says, "smooth is fast!"

Trigger Time is located near Carthage, North Carolina, about 35 mile from Ft. Bragg and has an IDPA match every second Saturday. The new start time is 10 AM. Visit the web site for more details and come out and shoot with us when you can. www.trigger-time.com.

IDPA for \$600.00 (or less)!!

Sounds like a discount hotel advertisement, doesn't it? Not quite, but the meaning is the same. With that said, let's take a look at the start-up costs for the shooter just getting started in IDPA competition.

The creators of IDPA had the power of forethought in regards to the creation of IDPA's four competition divisions. For the basis of discussion, we will highlight the least expensive division as far as equipment costs are concerned, Stock Service Revolver. When most people think of SSR division they think of outdated equipment. Revolver technology hasn't changed much in the last 20 years. Other than using new and lighter materials like Scandium and Titanium in revolver production, simply put, a six gun remains a six gun. And that's the BEAUTY of it. The revolver, by design needs no further improvement. It is truly an "out of the box" performer that is affordable for the new competitor.

How much do you need to spend to purchase SSR division competitive equipment? It's safe to say that you can purchase an entire IDPA legal SSR division "package", including hearing protection, eye protection and a shooter's gear bag for what a new Glock 17 would cost you without any extras. Nonsense you say? I did a bit of shopping over the holidays and here's what I came up with.

Used revolvers are everywhere. Many are old police department trade-ins. K Frame S&Ws are the most popular models found in gun shops. With the relatively low power factor requirements, a lightweight model 10, 14, 15 or 19/66 will perform perfectly. I found several 19/66 with both 2.5 and 4-inch barrel configurations (all utilize adjustable sights) in good to excellent condition for under \$350.00. A 2.5 inch barreled gun can also be used in IDPA's back-up gun division, there-by adding to the versatility of the purchase. So, now for the sake of argument we've spent \$350.00 so far on our new blaster, let's continue shopping for our accessories. Holsters can be purchased from Blade-Tech or Wilson's Gun Shop for under \$80.00. I purchased a Wilson Low-Profile holster in black leather (yes, they still make a few holsters out of good-ole leather) for \$69.00. A double speedloader pouch made by HKS and purchased from Cheaper Than Dirt set me back another \$12.96. Four Safariland Comp-2 speedloaders set me back an additional \$28.00 and a set of Ahrends cocobolo finger groove grips (a splurge purchase) cost me an additional \$49.00. From Beikirch's, I purchased a pair of clear lens Smith and Wesson shooting glasses for \$15.95 and Peltor brand shooting muffs for \$29.95. Lastly, I purchased a "Mini Range Bag" from Smith and Wesson for \$39.95. Grand total for all the above items, \$594.81. Compare this to the retail cost of a new Glock model 17 at roughly \$550.00 or a new Kimber 1911 whose retail value is over \$650.00 and you'll see just what a bargain SSR division can be for a new competitor. Add roughly \$50.00 for a quality belt and \$7.50 a box for Winchester Win-Clean 38 special ammunition and your gear requirements for IDPA competition are complete.

The goal of this research was to highlight the revolver as an alternative choice in IDPA competition and to spur interest, there-by "growing" the division. Wheelgun shooting is a "blast"; I dare say once you try it, you'll be hooked. I'd love to see you at our local matches wearing a wheelgun, or better yet, at this year's Smith and Wesson's Winternationals in SSR division. The most important part is to get involved at whatever level you feel comfortable.

Keep all "six" in the Center,
Chuck Di Salvo
A15307

COMRADERIE...

Good morning,

Yesterday afternoon, I stopped by the range on the way home from hunting. My initial plan was just to get some information regarding possible safety courses or instruction materials as I just bought a .22 pistol for Christmas (my first pistol in years). Little did I know what was in store for me. Within a few minutes, I had a 9mm strapped on one side, extra magazines on the other, and was getting practical instructions to participate in a match. After being shown the particular aspects of the pistol I was to be shooting, the safety rules of the range, how the safety officer would be working, and what was expected of me as a shooter, Mr. White was assigned to be my "shadow" during the match. What an experience.

I wanted to take a moment to let you know how much I appreciated being "taken under the wing" so to speak by the XYZ Gun Club members who were there. I was made to feel very welcome, and took away some good experience, as well as had a great time. Please let the members know how much I appreciate what they did for me.

*Sincerely,
Bobby F. Radarr*

The preceding letter is one I came across that had been sent to an IDPA club. I think the author expresses himself pretty well. I've changed the names in the letter because they are unimportant for my purposes here. What is important is that this gentleman showed up at the range during an IDPA match and the unwritten message the letter conveys.

I've been involved in IDPA for a handful of years now and cannot begin to express in words just how much I have benefited from that involvement. My first experience with IDPA was when I showed up at a match just to see what IDPA was about and try to determine if it was something I wanted to do. I can identify with the author of this letter because I was treated in much the same way. I was left with little doubt that the members of that club and the competitors present that day went out of their way to make sure all my questions were answered and I was enjoying myself. They tried very hard to get me to shoot the match that day with offers of various guns, ammo and equipment, but I had already decided that I would return the next day with my own equipment to shoot the second day of that two day match.

Like most of us that end up getting bitten by the competitive shooting bug, I've traveled to several clubs over the years and shot many matches at lots of different places. The remarkable thing I've discovered is the consistency with regard to the types of people you meet at all these IDPA matches. With every visit to an IDPA club or competition, I find the hosts & competitors to be very friendly, generous and eager to make sure everyone had a fun match. I have seen every piece of equipment imaginable (& IDPA legal, of course) loaned out without a second thought or a moment's hesitation whenever someone was in need. I have been made to feel welcome and at home at every IDPA function I've attended.

The reason the names in the letter don't matter is because I'm sure that letters just like this have been received by just about every IDPA affiliated club out there. What does matter is that we, the individual members and competitors of IDPA, the people managing the ranges and clubs and the

Continued on page 23

New Shooter's Thoughts

by

John Igoe, A16200

How does someone who was raised in New York get involved with handguns? Until I was out of my teens I thought as the T.V. news and print media told me, only the bad guys and police had guns. No law-abiding homeowner needed nor wanted a weapon for self-protection or just piece of mind. It was not necessary or almost un-American to own, let alone know how to handle a weapon. This was of course pre-911 when the entire nations' thinking was altered.

My life seemed to change one day when I was about 18 years old, living in a quiet suburban neighborhood on Long Island, NY. My father, like every other father in the area worked in the City and mom stayed home with the kids. One afternoon the entire neighborhood heard yelling and banging on a door at the neighbor's house and then the crashing of glass. It seemed that all of the kids in the surrounding houses came out into their yards to see what was causing the commotion. We all heard what we thought was a car backfiring but quickly realized it was gunfire; we heard one, two, three shots in quick succession. We learned later that the owner of the house was firing at the person who was kicking in his side door. At the time of the shooting, all of the older kids ran, but the youngest kids just stood on the sidewalk and watched, not knowing what was happening. I saw them standing there on the side walk very vulnerable, not knowing what to do. My thoughts were that the bullets might travel across the street into my parent's house, penetrating the walls and hit me. It was a very brief period of time in my life that I have thought about many times since. I have never felt so helpless in my entire life. I have thought about that incident many times over the years and I would not want to feel that way again. We learned later that the person breaking down the door was hit with at least one round and survived. He was a former resident of the house that his parents had sold. He was on drug therapy and thought that he still lived there.

It has taken almost 30 years from the incident, including extensive travel outside of the United States, to realize that one must take responsibility for his own safety or at least piece of mind. This was not a quick realization. A number of unrelated incidents have brought me to a point of enjoying shooting handguns and long guns that in some way may allow me to take control of a situation if it were to arise.

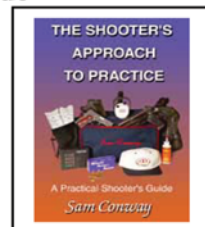
One of the items that affected my thinking was age. When I was younger, I taught Karate and thought that I was in good shape and fast with punches and kicks. Over the last few years, I must admit that I have slowed down with many aches and pains when I over do it. If I were to try some of the defensive Karate moves at my age I would need Ben Gay for sure.

The major item that pushed me into firing a handgun, which I had not done in over 25 years, was the fact that my son was training to become a Texas peace officer. He and his training buddies let me "tag along" and shoot during one trip to the range. I was hooked. My youngest son had been shooting skeet with his buddies on numerous occasions and I had to do what my sons were

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doing. Prior to this time I would not have entered the gun shop on my own. My thoughts were that the shooting range was inhabited by guys that liked to kill things and would love an opportunity to razz a "non gun person". Boy was I wrong. Yes, there is a little strutting and chest inflation going on at the range or at the gun store but this is usually done when non-gun persons, particularly women are present. But that is the extent of the "I'm better than you" attitude. In fact, I have found that a majority of people that you meet at the range are very helpful and willing to offer supportive suggestions and insights. In particular, some of the shooting clubs such as IDPA (International Defensive Pistol Association), etc., are very good places to learn the most important aspect of gun handling; safety. Safety is stressed as the most important point at each of the clubs that I am involved with. Gun safety provides the new shooter with the confidence that is required to accept the responsibility of handgun ownership and specifically gun handling. Shooting has become a very enjoyable activity in my life and, in fact, does provide some piece of mind.

I would encourage anyone that is even remotely interested in the sport of shooting to attend an IDPA match as a spectator. It will not cost you anything, it will be safe, and you will meet a great group of people that will be willing and able to answer all of your questions. A phone call to your local shooting range or a quick search on the web will give you all of the scheduled matches in the area. Pick one and attend. Arrive early and let the Match Director (MD) know that it is your first time. He will take it from there and introduce you around.

John Igoe

IDPA member number A16200

Certified Range Safety Officer

Classified SSP marksman

Classified CDP sharpshooter

Continued from page 21

members of IDPA HQ, remember that it is not just our sport and its spirit that attracts members and new shooters. It also has a lot to do with how we treat potential new shooters and others that are just getting exposed to how much fun IDPA can be.

The 2003 Nationals was held at a local club and I have heard it said many times that the heart of IDPA is at the local club level. I think this letter illustrates why the local clubs are so important to IDPA and why IDPA continues to grow and become more popular. Kudos to the club that received this letter and keep up the good work.

Ken Williamson
A05513



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The North Carolina State Match

by Charlene Rogers, A10417

After looking back through previous Tactical Journals, I have noticed that all of the match write-ups seem to come from those that either setup or run the match. Though these articles have been very interesting to read and I have enjoyed the descriptions of the different stages, I felt the need to tell everyone about our state match from a shooters viewpoint. I have been a member of IDPA for 5 years and have shot the North Carolina State Match 4 times. I am not an excellent shooter by any means, but IDPA is the reason for my being as competent with my handgun as I am. I have found many different attitudes and perspectives about matches from the people I have had the opportunity to shoot with and have learned a little from each one of them. Those that approach IDPA as a competition have shown me how to look at handling myself efficiently. How can I get the gun from my holster to being sighted in on the target in the most efficient manner? How can I use cover without unnecessary movements? Then, there are those who, like myself, approach IDPA as a defensive training tool. How can I handle this situation without opening myself up to danger? Where is my biggest threat or is that even a threat? As a female shooter who values my ability to protect myself but does not want to be paranoid, IDPA and all the people involved have offered me the platform to find where I am comfortable. It has allowed me to become the best I can in this position, which is unique to me alone, as each of my fellow shooters has found their "comfort zone" with reality always held to the forefront. The state match had many opportunities to see how all of these different personalities looked at each scenario and dealt with them in such different ways. No where else have I learned so much in one short day.

Our match director spent all year putting this match together and it could be seen in the end result. Everything ran even smoother than last year with only one set of stages being backed up and all the shooters were very relaxed and enjoyed the beautiful day. Hurricane Isabelle decided to pay us a visit right before match day and caused four scheduled SO's to have to stay with their families and clean-up the mess she left behind, but the day still went as scheduled. Thank you very much to all the SO's who stepped up to the plate at the last minute and made this match possible! The stages were well thought out and brought many surprises. I never thought shooting up into a second floor window could be so much fun or that I could do it so well. There was a great mix of old favorites and new ideas with the shoot house being the favorite among the folks I talked with. I am always amazed (although I should come to expect it by now) at the number of people willing to stop and give me advice and praise. I always learn so much at the state match I can not imagine ever missing one. The SO's, as busy as they are, and fellow shooters are never too busy to let me know what I did right and how I could do better. One SO in the shoot house was as wonderful as ever and gave me some pointers when he realized I was shooting a different gun for the first time and it happened to be the same model as his (also different to him for the first time).

It was kind of strange that we both changed guns to the same model but he gave me some great gun related pointers that have helped me tremendously. It is always great to have the opportunity to watch and talk to the variety of excellent shooters we always seem to have at this match and this year was no exception. I never seem to hear about how great our shooters are when it comes to handing out advice. I have found that in most sports the ones on top want to keep the secret to their success to themselves but I have yet to go to an IDPA match where passing advice back and forth was not commonplace. I was told by a master class shooter at this particular match that he found more joy in watching an aspiring shooter improve using his advice than he found from placing well himself. I would like to pass along to him that I did use his advice in the following stages and I noticed a distinct improvement in the smoothness of my draw. I may or may not have gained any speed but I did improve the comfort level that will lead to speed in time and with practice.

I know this does not tell you much about the technicalities of our match but you can check out our website (www.wgc-idpa.org) for more information. IDPA, and the larger matches in particular, is about more than the stage designs; it is about the people and the interaction that is found at these events that make them so special. Where else can you go to test your skills and enjoy the company of such great people as those found in IDPA. You can sit down and talk to shooters with skills you can only imagine in your dreams and be looked up to by those who see you as the apex that they hope to obtain. IDPA is not about the guns, it is about the people and I am proud to be a part of this great sport. I do want to take a moment to thank our match coordinator, Gary Hoyle, and his wife, Sandy, for all the work they do for this match and all of our other matches. If it were not for them, things just would not be the same. I do not want to leave anyone out but so many people put their time and effort into this match I could not possibly name them all. You know who you are and my hat is off to all of you for another great match. I did not think you could top last year but you certainly did. I am eagerly waiting for next year to see what you have in store for us and I look forward to meeting any and all new faces that care to join us next year for the state match or any of our regular matches. You are all welcome and I wish each and every one of you a happy and safe year with lots of lead heading down range.

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IDPA Match Tips from the Palmetto Gun Club

by Sam Caldwell (A17406) and Zollie Byrd (A17500)

Photographs by Gary Kerr, II (A19431)

This article is a bit different from the typical story about the International Defensive Pistol Association (IDPA) at the club level that discusses who, what, when, and where. Instead, we would like to share some of the things that we do at Palmetto Gun Club that make our matches easier to run. No claims of original ideas or of expertise are intended. These are just a few things that work for us and may be of benefit to other IDPA clubs.

We learned early on that course walk throughs can be time consuming due to shooters' questions regarding each course of fire. New shooters and those with hearing impairment (not uncommon among older shooters) may require detailed or repeated explanations in order to make the requirements of a course of fire (COF) clear to them. Two approaches have been implemented to make the walk throughs proceed more quickly. First, the COFs are posted on our web site

(www.home.bellsouth.net/p/pwp-idpapg) at least one week prior to the matches that are held on the third Saturday of each month. Questions about a COF can be posted on the message board or e-mailed directly to the match director. Secondly, a printed copy of the COF that includes the stage layout, shot count, scoring method, scenario, procedure, and required props is posted in the front of the pistol bay for each stage. This allows shooters who do not have Internet access the opportunity to read the COFs prior to the walk through. The printed COF is held in a rigid see-through plastic sheet protector that is hung from a numbered stage stake (Picture right). The stage stake is held either by a target stand or a short section of PVC pipe as shown in the picture (two spikes are taped onto the PVC). We have found that course walk throughs have taken less time since we began posting the COFs on the web site and having a paper copy available for each stage.



Course of fire on stage stake held by a section of PVC pipe.



Close up of target paster stands.

Do your matches use target pasters in an exponential rate to the shots fired? Like many clubs, we use a plastic container for each string of shooters that holds pens, clipboard, timer, stapler, extra staples, and pasters. When it is time to score, shooters reach into the container to grab a roll of pasters or else they tear off a long string of pasters. When the match is over, only some of the unused rolls and strips of pasters are returned. The unused pasters are inadvertently left in pockets and range bags or are even discarded. Not only is this wasteful, it is costly. Our answer (Picture left) is a target paster stand that is installed at each stage out of the line of fire.

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Item #	Item	Description	Size or Amount	Price	Quantity	Extended Price
DPT	Official IDPA Targets	Cardboard Targets. 50 per box.	1 or 2 boxes, ea.	\$24.00		
DPT	Official IDPA Targets	Cardboard Targets. 50 per box.	3 or more boxes, ea.	\$22.00		
PPT	Official Paper Practice Targets	Paper Targets. 100 per box.		\$28.00		
TPT	Target Pasting Tape	Natural Cardboard Color.	60 yd. Roll	\$1.95		
TPP	Target Pasters	Natural Cardboard Color.	1000/box	\$2.95		
C	Official IDPA Ball Caps	Embroidered. 3" crown. Specify blue, green, khaki, or white		\$9.95		
C	Official IDPA Ball Caps	Embroidered. Solid back, plastic snap. Specify maroon, tan, navy or dark green.		\$6.95		
M	Official Summer Mesh Caps	Embroidered. Specify light gray or tan.		\$6.95		
C	Official Safety Officer Ball Caps	Embroidered. Red.		\$9.95		
C	Official Safety Officer Ball Caps	Embroidered. Red with mesh back.		\$9.95		
T	Official IDPA T-Shirt	Embroidered T-Shirt. Specify ash, cardinal, green, navy, faded blue, faded green, pale blue, pale green or natural.	M, L, or XL	\$17.95		
T	Official IDPA T-Shirt	Embroidered T-Shirt. Specify ash, cardinal, green, navy, pale blue, pale green or natural.	XXL	\$19.95		
H	Official Henley Shirt	Embroidered 3-button t-shirt. Natural.	M, L, or XL	\$21.95		
H	Official Henley Shirt	Embroidered 3-button t-shirt. Natural.	XXL	\$23.95		
P	Official Sport Shirt	Embroidered Polo Style; Short Sleeve. Specify grey, natural, navy or green.	M, L, or XL	\$19.95		
P	Official Sport Shirt	Embroidered Polo Style; Short Sleeve. Specify grey, natural, navy or green.	XXL	\$22.95		

Item #	Item	Description	Size or Amount	Price	Quantity	Extended Price
M	Official Mock Turtleneck	100% heavyweight preshrunk embroidered cotton. Specify natural or navy.	M, L or XL	\$21.95		
M	Official Mock Turtleneck	100% heavyweight preshrunk embroidered cotton. Specify natural or navy.	XXL	\$23.95		
PL	Official Sport Shirt	Embroidered Polo Style; LONG Sleeve. Specify ash, hunter green or navy.	M, L or XL	\$24.95		
PL	Official Sport Shirt	Embroidered Polo Style; LONG Sleeve. Specify ash or navy.	XXL	\$27.95		
DL	Official Denim Shirt	Embroidered Denim LONG Sleeve Shirt. Denim blue	XS, M, L or XL	\$29.95		
HP	Hat Pin	Antique silver finish.		\$2.95		
EP	Official Embroidered Patch	May be sewn or pressed on. Shipping is \$1 for every 10 patches.		\$2.00		
WD	Official IDPA Window Decal	Four Color Decal. Shipping is \$1 for every 10 decals.		\$1.00		
PEN	IDPA Pen	High quality laser-engraved blue pen with gold trim.		\$2.95		
RB	Official IDPA Rulebook			\$2.00		
CIT	Columbia Invitational VCR Tape	Tournament and Conference. 90 minute VCR tape. Great for recruiting.		\$19.95		
VCT	Official Vickers Count Timer	Pro-Timer IV SUPER that computes Vickers Count Final Score. Manufacturer guarantee.		\$199.95		
CLK	Camillus Levr-Loc Knife	IDPA logo on blade.		\$35.00		
AG1	IDPA 1911 AlumaGrips	Aluminum grips with IDPA logo. Specify right or left handed; type of safety; if magwell is present. Made by AlumaGrips.	lightweight or standard	\$67.50		

Shipping: There is no shipping for IDPA 1911 AlumaGrips. Cardboard and paper targets are shipped by UPS unless otherwise requested. Please call or e-mail IDPA HQ for exact shipping cost. Shipping for all other items except patches and decals is \$6 for the first item and \$0.50 for each additional item. Shipping for patches and decals is \$1 for 10. For orders outside of the USA, call, fax or e-mail IDPA HQ for shipping cost.

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The stand is made out of rebar for durability and works like a cellophane tape dispenser with three rolls of pasters (tan for targets, black for hard cover, and white for soft cover) inserted on the rebar. A bend in the rebar holds one end in place. The opposite end is used to load the rolls which are held in place with a large washer and wing nut. The thought is that you will take only what you will need to paste the string just shot. We have used the target paster stands at only one match so far and found that they worked well. Shooters only took enough pasters to paste the string of fire and no unused pasters were found in the trash or laying on the ground.



**Wall made from two
4' x 8' panels.**

walls using the thin plastic panels that are used for signage such as the roadside political messages in today's election campaigns (panels come in various sizes; however the 8' x 4' size seems to be the most popular). These are easily framed using 2" x 2" with 3' legs on each end (Picture above). The walls are anchored to the ground using discarded fast food restaurant table pedestals. These pedestals are about 2 ½" square and easily hold the legs of the walls.

Picture 4 (right) shows a pedestal that has a 2 ½" channel welded to one side. The channel allows for a series of panels to be placed in line or to establish a right angle for a hallway or room. The pedestal is anchored to the ground by two spikes that are inserted through predrilled holes in its base. We have found this arrangement to be quite durable, easy to move, and easy to set up. When anchored with the spikes the walls easily resist windy conditions. Another benefit of the plastic panels is that functioning windows can be installed in them. We have used the process of opening a window to trigger a moving or spinning target.

Props are very important to IDPA matches for creating realistic scenarios and to make the COFs interesting and challenging to the shooters. Walls simulating hard cover, hallways, and rooms are used by many clubs. Plywood, fiberboard, cardboard, and plastic tarps are but a few of the materials that are used for walls. Problems arise when the walls become cumbersome to move and set in place or when materials used are less than durable and the walls are easily damaged.

One solution is to construct



Close up of wall stand showing welded on 2 ½" channel. The channel allows for a series of panels to be placed in line or to establish a right angle for a hallway or room.

What is the least fun part of a match? Most of us would answer the set up and the take down of the stages. Just about anything that makes these two tasks easier would be welcome by most match directors. What makes these tasks less than enjoyable is lugging all of the props, target stands, and target stakes from their storage areas to the shooting bays and then back again. At Palmetto Gun Club we are fortunate to have 10 pistol bays in a row. For an IDPA match, we typically run one stage in each of the first five bays. What we have done to make the two tasks easier is to fabricate an IDPA prop trailer (Picture below) that is loaded with the appropriate number



of targets, target stakes, walls, wall stands, spikes, etc. for the match. The trailer is then towed along the bays to unload the needed props for each COF and to similarly load the props back up after the match is over. When not in use, the trailer is stored underneath an overhead cover. The trailer is a discarded 18' boat trailer that only required two new tires. A fresh paint job is scheduled for the near future. Racks, posts and bins to hold the props and supplies were welded onto the trailer.

We hope the above ideas will be of interest and of use to others, especially those clubs just starting IDPA. We would certainly like to learn about any tips your club may have. Perhaps a match 'tips and tricks' column could be a feature of each issue of the Tactical Journal?

The Palmetto Gun Club is about a 45 minute drive from downtown Charleston, South Carolina. Directions to the range are on our website. You are invited to join us on any third Saturday of the month.

Complete Glock Reference Guide Testamonial

I am not new to firearms. In fact, I have been handling guns for over thirty years. Six years ago, I discovered USPSA and I cut my competition teeth with a Springfield 1911. In the past six years, I have read numerous books on how to build and maintain 1911's. The problem was I had to read several books to get the knowledge required to tinker on my own stuff.

Once I made the decision to give Glock a try, I did not know where to turn. I had several friends who tried to guide me in the right direction with Glock, but I never felt I had the know how to get my hands dirty with the Glock "nitty-gritty". Just like my 1911's, I wanted to slick up my new Glock 34 for competition. Besides, I did not know how to disassemble my new Glock past fieldstripping.

Then I had the opportunity to read the Complete Glock Reference Guide. This 300 page spiral bound book is full of information and illustrations. It gives a new Glock owner information on how Gaston Glock got his ever-growing firearms empire started. It gives a detailed account on how Glock's Safe Action system works and provides easy to understand illustrations, including how to properly inspect and test your Glock firearm. It provides step-by-step instruction on how to completely disassemble and reassemble your gun, along with instructions on how and where to lubricate the gun. The book includes technical specification on all current Glock pistols.

This book also gets very detailed on how to customize, optimize and install custom parts in your Glock pistol. It also instructs where exactly to polish certain parts for a gunsmith-like trigger pull and performance. It even goes over shooting stances, grips and techniques for improving your shooting skills with the Glock. For instance, I had heard of trigger reset before, but I did not know how crucial trigger reset was to Glock's accuracy. The part I liked the best was how to polish the trigger parts like the disconnect,safty plunger,etc to get a very smooth feel to the trigger.

I found the section that talked about the Glock torture test particularly interesting. It gives a blow-by-blow account on how the gun performs after being subjected to some of the world's toughest conditions, such as; being subjected to ice, dirt, and being fired with out any lubrication. They even put a gun in a cement mixer. Of course, they are not suggesting that anyone else try it, it's just their way of proving what a durable, almost indestructible firearm it is.

Overall, I found this book to be very informative and any Glock owner would benefit by having this publication on their workbench. I am sure that I will refer to mine on a regular basis. And at a suggested retail price of \$29.95, this one is a no-brainer. You can find this book at Lone wolf distributors; phone is 208-437-0612 or go to the web at www.lonewolfdist.com. They are located at 57 Shepard Road - P. O. Box 3549, Old Town, ID 83822-3549. Their fax is 1-888-279-2077. Check them out.

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To the Editor:

I read the article on the most recent Tactical Journal where David Monier-Williams espouses the "Turnipseed Technique." I was intrigued and went to the website, and downloaded the videos. Hmmmm.

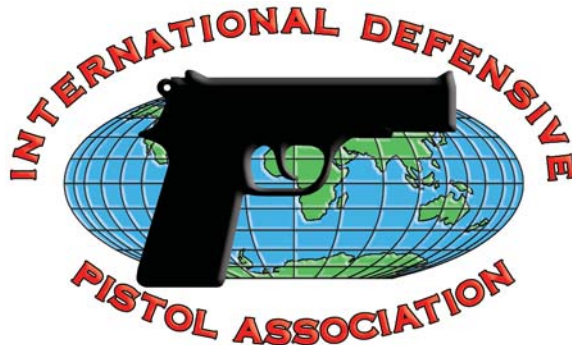
First, the statistics are misleading. "50% of Law Enforcement officers are killed at 0 to 5 feet." OK. How many of that 50% them are killed when they are either seated in their patrol car, or when they are on the ground? What technique, if any, would prove beneficial in that situation?

Second, after watching the sample videos provided on the web site, it seems to me that the purveyors of this "turnipseed" technique believe that gut-shots would be effective at stopping an agressor, and at that, only short ones. Myself being 6' 2" might receive a wound a little further south. I am no wound ballistics expert, but it would seem that a shot placed to cause a failure of either the circulatory system or the central nervous system would be better at stopping an attacker than a gut shot.

Third, I can foresee serious legal problems for the adherents of this technique, unless they are members of the military or Law Enforcement communities. The prosecution: "Well Mr. Williams, did you actually *aim* your pistol at the person you supposedly killed in self-defense?" "Uh, well, not *really*, in the traditional sense anyways."

Not sure if you have a "Letters to the Tactical Journal" section, but I wanted to share my opinion of this article with your readers,

Mark Williams
A19225



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Eric Games
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765-426-5765 w
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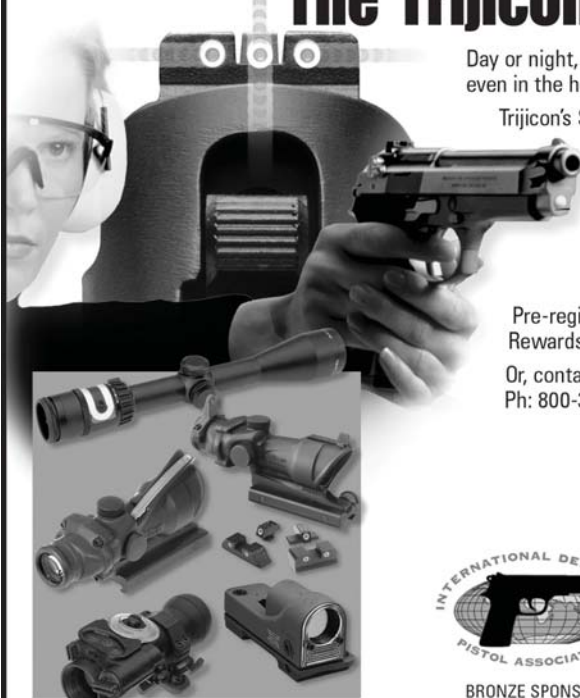
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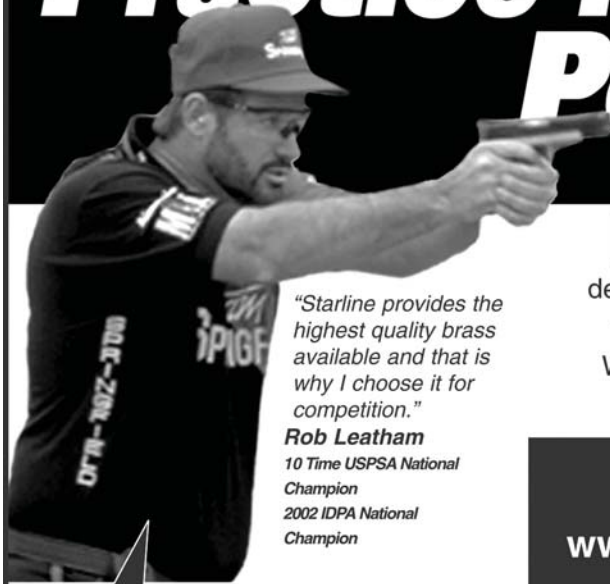
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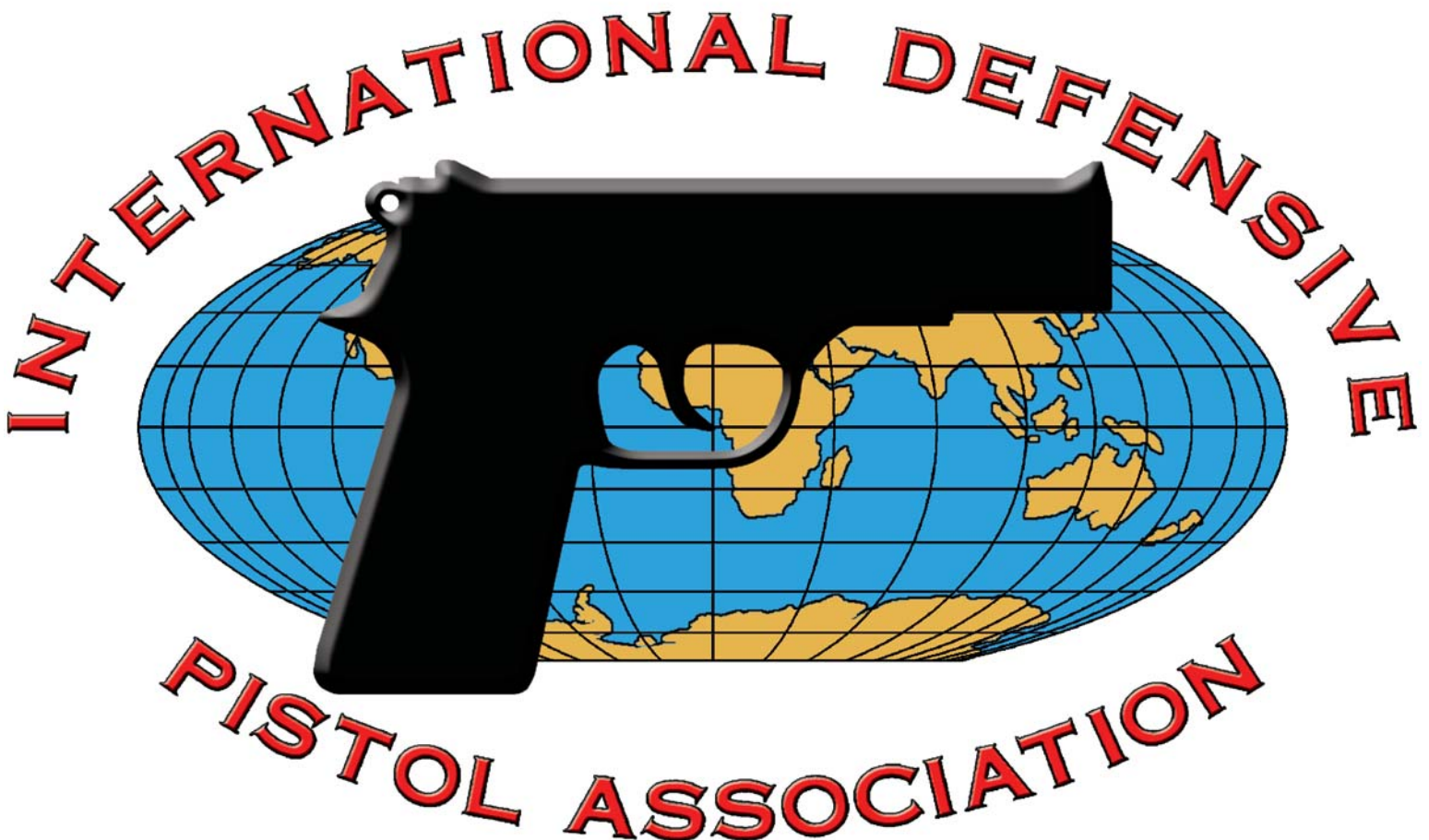
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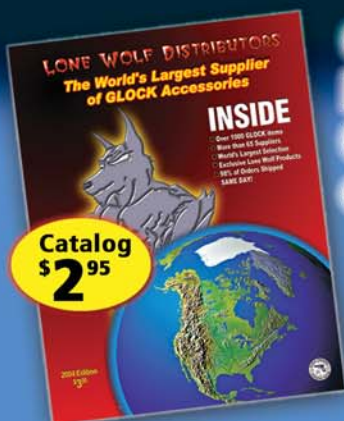
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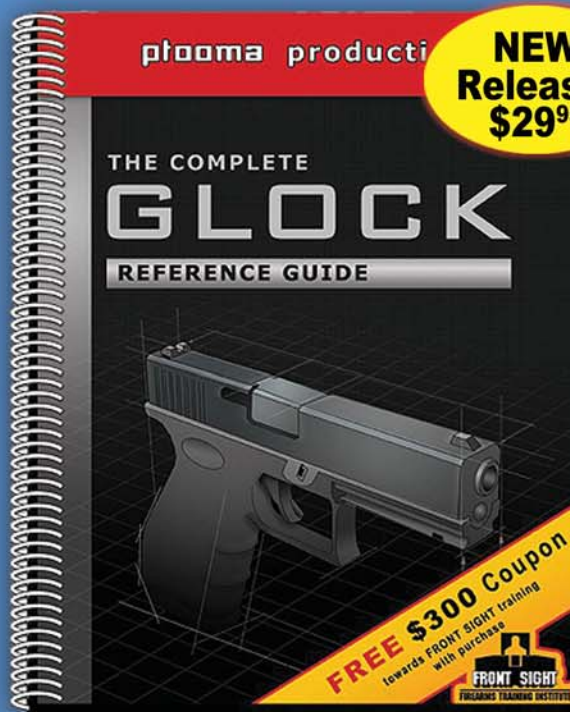
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